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Darren Chaker-Del Nero 1140 Wall Street #77 La Jolla, CA 92038 DarrenChaker@Gmail.com Self-Represented

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN DISTRICT

DARREN DELNERO,

Plaintiff,

NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:06-cv-04823

APPLICATION TO FILE UNDER SEAL

[CONDITIONALLY FILED UNDER SEAL]

COMES NOW PLAINTIFF'S DARREN CHAKER and files this Application to Seal the attached Motion for Judicial Notice in Support of Ex Parte Motion to Seal Records.

I. GOOD CAUSE EXISTS TO SEAL THE MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION AND REFERENCES TO RECORDS SEVERAL OTHER COURTS HAVE ORDERED SEAL, INCLUDING SEALED COURT ORDERS.

California Civil Procedure Code § 367.3 was enacted in 2019 and is now moving this honorable court to seal the file and insert "John Doe" as the Plaintiff.

This honorable court recently received an ex parte motion to seal records. The court filed these records under seal. Plaintiff now seeks to file his motion for reconsideration.

Plaintiff attaches several court orders to his motion which have changed the caption to protect Plaintiff's name from the public record as well as other courts have sealed the entire file including the court order.

#### APPLICATION TO FILE UNDER SEAL - 1

If this honorable court did not grant this application, then the various court orders which have been sealed would then become a public record. Likewise, the argument the motion for reconsideration references to sealed records, thus should be sealed as well.

#### CONCLUSION

Since the Application to File Under Seal discloses the contents of the attached motion, Plaintiff requests the motion and application are filed under seal.

If for any reason this motion is not granted, Plaintiff requests the Clerk of the Court to return this Motion for Reconsideration of Ex Parte Motion to Seal Records<sup>1</sup> as having such material in the public record could be a death sentence and would reveal confidential and previously sealed records.

DATED: July 31, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Chaker- Del Nero

Plaintiff

For reference, and for only example purposes, in California if the court denies the motion to seal the record, the court "must not place it in the case file unless [the moving] party notifies the clerk in writing within 10 days...that the record is to be filed." (Rule 2.551(b)(6).); Conditionally lodged documents must be returned to the moving party by this court's clerk. (Rule 8.46(d)(7) & (f)(3)(D).)

Darren Chaker-Del Nero 1140 Wall Street #77 2 La Jolla, CA 92038 DarrenChaker@Gmail.com 3 Self-Represented 4 5 6 DARREN DELNERO, 7 8 Plaintiff. 9 10 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 11 Defendants. 12 13 14 15 16 Reconsideration. 17 18

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#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN DISTRICT

Case No.: 2:06-cv-04823

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EX PARTE MOTION TO SEAL RECORDS

CONDITIONALLY FILED UNDER SEAL

COMES NOW PLAINTIFF DARREN DEL NERO and files this Motion for

#### PLAINTIFF REQUESTS THIS HONORABLE COURT TO RECONSIDER ITS RULING SINCE IT FAILED TO EMRBACE CALIFORNIA LAW.

This honorable court issued its ruling on June 10, 2021. Plaintiff requests the court to reconsider its ruling<sup>1</sup> for the following reasons:

First, I would ask this honorable Court to embrace California which expressly enunciates the exclusive criteria to grant a motion to seal under the statue is if the moving party is an active participant in the Safe at Home Program. A "protected person" under the statute is a "person who is an active participant in the address confidentiality program

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION FOR EX PARTE **MOTION TO SEAL RECORDS - 1** 

There is no "motion for 'reconsideration' in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure." Bass v. United States Dep't of Agriculture, 211 F.3d 959, 962 (5th Cir. 2000). Rather, if filed within ten days of the district court's judgment, such a motion is const rued as filed pur suant to Rule 59(e). See id. Motions that are not timely under Rule 59 must be treated as motions filed under Rule 60(b). See Hamilton Plaintiffs v. Williams Plaintiffs, 147 F.3d 367, 371 n.10 (5th Cir. 1998).

...." (California Code of Civil Procedure § 367.3(a)(3). In lieu of looking at California law, the court discarded the criteria and looked to a balancing test to determine if Plaintiff is entitled to sealing or redaction.

Additionally, within only a few weeks when this court issued its order other courts issued different ones. As indicated below, other courts were presented with the identical papers this court was provided with and granted some relief ranging from completely sealing the entire case to full or partial redaction<sup>2</sup> of protected information<sup>3</sup>.

Further, the California Supreme Court has restricted access to entire volumes of records for privacy reasons<sup>4</sup>.

Respectfully, while the court discounts the rational for bringing the underlying motion, other courts have not. Plaintiff requests the court to reconsider its ruling while embracing both California law and the recently issued orders. At bare minimum to insert John Doe for the plaintiff's name to order redaction of all references of Plaintiff's name in the court record, as well as, redacting all reference to protected information.

# II. GOOD CAUSE EXISTS TO SEAL THE EX PARTE MOTION TO SEAL RECORDS SINCE ACTIVE THREATS TO PLAINTIFF'S SAFETY REMAIN.

As previously stated, California Civil Procedure Code § 367.3 was enacted in 2019. (CCP § 367.3(b)(1).) A "protected person" under the statute is an "person who is an active participant in the address confidentiality program . . ." (CCP § 367.3(a)(3).)

Moreover, the only criteria under California law is the person seeking to seal records must be an active member of Safe at Home. The California Judicial Council adopted the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee's recommendation in their

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The two courts where denial or partial redaction was allowed are being asked to reconsider its ruling are this one and the Central District of California.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As defined by Code of Civil Procedure § 367.3(a) (1) & (2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Exhibits G-K.

report on sealing previously filed papers under Code of Civil Procedure section 367.3, which states:

Rule 2.550 of the California Rules of Court requires that the court "specifically state the facts" that support its findings to place a document under seal. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.550(e).) The committee concluded that the applicant's status as an active participant in the Safe at Home program under Code of Civil Procedure section 367.3, itself, constitutes the "specific facts" supporting the motion necessary to retroactively seal documents.

Plaintiff has demonstrated by his declaration and Exhibits B & C attached to the initially filed Ex Parte Motion to Seal Records, he is part of the protected class of people who may use the protections afforded under the statute.

Tellingly, the restriction of information of a crime victim is also etched into the California Constitution article I, § 28, section (b)(4), "To prevent the disclosure of confidential information or records to the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or any other person acting on behalf of the defendant, which could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family..."

California Penal Code § 1054.2 restricts a criminal defense attorney from sharing contact information of a prosecution witness. Specifically, "no attorney may disclose or permit to be disclosed to a defendant, members of the defendant's family, or anyone else, the address or telephone number of a victim or witness whose name is disclosed to the attorney..."

Likewise, California Penal Code § 679, Rights of Victims and Witnesses of Crime –Legislative intent – states,

In recognition of the civil and moral duty of victims and witnesses of crime to fully and voluntarily cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, and in further recognition of the continuing importance of this citizen cooperation to state and local law enforcement efforts and the general effectiveness and well-being of

## MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION FOR EX PARTE MOTION TO SEAL RECORDS - 3

the criminal justice system of this state, the Legislature declares its intent, in the enactment of this title, to ensure that all victims and witnesses of crime are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity. It is the further intent that the rights enumerated in Section 679.02 relating to victims and witnesses of crime are honored and protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded criminal defendants. (emphasis added)

"It is well settled that the right of privacy is purely a personal one." (Coverstone v. Davies (1952) 38 Cal.2d 315, 322-324 [239 P.2d 876]; Werner v. Times-Mirror Co. (1961) 193 Cal.App.2d 111, 116 [14 Cal.Rptr. 208]; James v. Screen Gems, Inc. (1959) 174 Cal.App.2d 650, 653.

Tellingly, in the unpublished case *Lawrence S. v. Copeland*, No. B255858, 2015 WL 7061963, at \*1 (Cal. Ct. App. Nov. 12, 2015) the appellate court reversed a trial court years prior to § 367.3 being enacted where the trial court decided to not seal records. The participant in that case stated to the lower court,

"We are members of the [S]afe at [H]ome program because we are both victims of serious domestic violence from an ex-boyfriend of mine, who has physically assaulted me many times, stalked us, and threatened us with death. I was hospitalized as a result of his assault. I remain in fear of [] my life and my child's life from this individual."

The court found the statement sufficed to require sealing.

"Given the evidence of Copeland's past experience as a victim of domestic violence and her participation in the California Safe at Home confidential address program, these implied findings are supported by substantial evidence."

Although this honorable court is not bound to the decision, it is the only decision concerning Safe at Home where an appeal needed to be pursued. An appeal has yet to be filed for being denied reduction or record sealing under § 367.3.

Ultimately when does a threat cease? In this case, when a person goes to jail the threat does not cease. Participants in WITSEC are participants for life for the reason the threat does not cease. The threat is real and lives on especially with today's private

# MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION FOR EX PARTE MOTION TO SEAL RECORDS - 4

<sup>6</sup> Code of Civil Procedure § 367.3(a), (b)(1).
<sup>6</sup> As defined by Code of Civil Procedure § 36

<sup>6</sup> As defined by Code of Civil Procedure § 367.3(a) (1) & (2).

industry creating a 'data base nation' where records court records are mined, scanned, filtered, attached to a particular person, and then data sold to information brokers - the reasoning nictitating the sealing of records is even more profound.

III. TAKING JUDICIAL NOTICE OF RECENT COURT ORDERS WOULD AIDE THIS HONORABLE COURT IN RECONSIDERATION SINCE THE ORDERS WERE UNAVAILBALE AT THE TIME THE COURT MADE ITS DECISION.

This Court may take judicial notice of a different court's records. Reyn's Pasta Bella, LLC v. Visa USA, Inc., 442 F.3d 741, 746 n.6 (9th Cir. 2006) (taking judicial notice of pleadings, memoranda, expert reports, and other documents from proceedings in another court); see also United States ex rel. Robinson Rancheria Citizens Council v. Borneo, Inc., 971 F.2d 244, 248 (taking judicial notice of proceedings before another court).

Exhibits A through L court orders relevant to the motion before the court where each request to redact or seal its respective cases was granted. Specifically,

- Exhibit A is an Order from the District Court, Las Vegas, Nevada. In that case the court made findings Plaintiff's "physical and emotional danger" were at risk unless it granted the motion. The Court changed Defendant's name to John Doe, and sealed the Order and the entire case.
- Exhibit B is a Minute Order and final order by the San Diego Superior Court granting redaction<sup>5</sup> of all personally identifiable records<sup>6</sup> and changing the Plaintiff's name to John Doe.
- Exhibit C is an Order by the District Court for the Southern District of California granting redaction of all personally identifiable information and changing the Plaintiff's name to John Doe.
- Exhibit **D** is an Order by the District Court for the Southern District of Texas granted the motion and sealed the entire case.

- Exhibit E is an Order from the District of Arizona. In that case, Senior United States District Court Judge Roslyn O. Silver agreed that by allowing the court record to remain public would place Plaintiff "at additional risk of harm" and subsequently sealed the entire case<sup>7</sup>.
- Exhibit F is an Order from District Court of Nevada granting redaction and supplementing the name John Doe for Plaintiff's name.
- Exhibit G-K are print outs from the California Supreme Court case information index. Plaintiff requests the court take judicial notice of each print out from the court record<sup>8</sup> where the court sealed several cases for privacy reasons.
- Exhibit L is a sealed court order concerning Plaintiff's oldest daughter. The
  judge in that case was apprised of information and in granting the motion to
  seal, it stated, "the Court finds that the Motion has merit and that the disclosure
  of records, discovery and related information will result in injury to
  Petitioner."
- Exhibit M is a subpoena by the San Diego District Attorney's Office directed to Plaintiff. In this case, Plaintiff heard screams from a neighbor, flagged down a police car and literally broke open a fire escape door. When the officer and Plaintiff exited the stairwell, a male was only feet away from a female draped in blood. It was determined the male, Nikola Chivatchev, had just bludgeoned his father to death with a dumbbell and was then turning on his mother when a police officer and Plaintiff arrived. While Mr. Chivatchev was handcuffed, Plaintiff turned on the video camera option on his phone and spoke with him.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This sealed order reference to a "David Hunter" which is a sealed name Plaintiff obtained as a result of threats.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Federal, state and municipal websites, including those of governmental agencies, are considered self-authenticating under Fed. R. Evid. 902(5), which provides that "official publications" are self-authenticating. Fed. R. Evid. 902(5) defines "official publications" to include "a book, pamphlet or other publication purporting to be issued by a public authority."

The video disclosed several instances where Mr. Chivatchev confessed to the murder to Plaintiff.<sup>9</sup>

- Exhibit N is a text Plaintiff received on June 11, 2021. The texts are photos of headless males. As Plaintiff's declaration states, he has received numerous threats in the past. The case, People v. Chivatchev is still pending where the defendant was committed to a mental hospital at first and is now in a lock down care facility until he is found fit for trial. It is feared the Bulgarian Mafia is making repeated efforts to intimidate Plaintiff for his cooperation with law enforcement.
- Exhibit O attached hereto is where a man in a ski-mask and black trench coat had attempted entry into Plaintiff's home in 2017 and where Plaintiff was interviewed by the news. Needless to say, most burglaries occur during the daytime hours and do not wear trench coats or ski-masks a mile from the beach in San Diego. Plaintiff believes this person attempted to gain entry to harm him or his family.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Respectfully, Plaintiff requests this honorable court to take the same action under Section 367.3 as other courts have and seal the entire or redact all protected information and substitute John Doe for Plaintiff's name.

DATED: July 30, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Chaker-Del Nero Plaintiff

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See Plaintiff's news interview disclosing the video on Fox News, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLlHUevPv9w

#### 

#### **DECLARATION**

I, the undersigned, am the Plaintiff in this matter and if sworn would testify as follows:

I am a current member of the California Safe at Home Program. My identification number is 3607. I was victimized and entered the Safe at Home program around 2009. See Exhibit B attached to Ex Parte Motion to Seal Records. The exhibits are true and correct copies of the original documents. Additional events have added to the fear for my safety which I bring to the attention of this court that I feel would supplement my request to seal or redact records.

**Exhibit M** is a subpoena in People v. Chivatchev. I am responsible for being the only person out of hundreds who heard screams for help and responding to them. I flagged down a passing police car. The police officer attempted to gain entry through a gate, but since I resided in the building across from it, I did not have access to the gate since it was a different building than my own. I was able to rip open a fire escape door. Upon entering the hallway, a male, later identified as the Mr. Chivatchev, who moved from Bulgaria, was approaching a female covered in blood. The officer placed Mr. Chivatchev under arrest for murdering his father. The case remains open due to Mr. Chivatchev's mental state.

I have received numerous death threats for what I believe is due to my cooperation and videotaping a conversation I had with Mr. Chivatchev post-arrest and due to the fact he may have gotten away but for me opening a fire escape door. I continue to fear for my life and was told the Bulgarian mafia is active in California and to take precautions.

Exhibit N are a couple of photographs received via Text on June 11, 2021. I do not know the person(s) who sent me the text, did not instruct nor encourage anyone to send me the text. I needed to cut and paste screen shots of the text to fit into the "borders" of the paper. If the court would like to see the original text saved in a .PDF file I am happy to accommodate by emailing it to the Court upon request.

# MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION FOR EX PARTE MOTION TO SEAL RECORDS - 8

Each court order I have attached concerns me, even if it is under John Doe, or my the name I obtained under seal, David Hunter. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United State of America the foregoing is true and correct. DATED: July 30, 2021 arren Chaker-Del Nero Plaintiff 

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION FOR EX PARTE MOTION TO SEAL RECORDS - 9

Each court order I have attached concerns me, even if it is under John Doe, or my the name I obtained under seal, David Hunter.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United State of America the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: July 30, 2021

Darren Claker-Del Nero Plaintiff

#### Case 2:06-cv-04823-JDW Document 16 Filed 08/09/21 Page 13 of 43 6/18/2021 1:45 PM

Electronically Filed CLERK OF THE COURT

2 STEPHANIE A. BARKER, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 3176 3 BRANDON P. SMITH, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10443 4 OLSON CANNON GORMLEY & STOBERSKI 9950 West Cheyenne Avenue 5 Las Vegas, NV 89129 jolson@ocgas.com sbarker@ocgas.com 7 bsmith@ocgas.com 702-384-4012 8 702-383-0701 fax Attorneys for Defendant 9 DISTRICT COURT 10 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 11 12 THOMAS C. MICHAELIDES, an individual, THOMAS C. MICHAELIDES dba TCM LAW

JAMES R. OLSON, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 000116

1

Law Offices of OLSON CANNON GORMLEY & STOBERSKI

A Professional Corporation 9950 West Cheyenne Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

Fax (702) 383-070

(702) 384-4012

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GROUP,

CASE NO. A-18-779028-C DEPT. NO. XXIV

Plaintiffs,

٧.

JOHN DOE, an individual; DOES I-X, inclusive; and ROE CORPORATIONS XI through XX,

Defendants.

#### AMENDED ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO SEAL OR REDACT

Defendant's Motion to Seal or Redact Record Under Seal, having come before the Court on the 27h day of April, 2021, with no opposition filed by Plaintiff and good cause appearing, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

The Court finds Defendant is a participant in the Safe at Home Program which is administered by the California Secretary of State. Safe at Home allows victims of violent crime to enter the program and provides many benefits to participants such as sealing public records in accordance with Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 367.3(b)(4) to limit

information about the participant to thwart efforts to locate the participant. The Court finds it will accept the important purpose behind California's Safe at Home program in allowing the sealing of public records in this case.

- 2. The Court previously found the instant lawsuit was meritless, that

  Defendant's speech was protected under NRS 41.635-670, and that Defendant was
  entitled to \$51,246 in attorney fees and expenses to Defendant. The Court also found the
  purported Judgment sent by Plaintiff to Google does not appear in the court docket nor
  was any such order ever presented to the court or issued by the court.
- 3. Furthermore, the Court finds Defendant's physical safety and psychological well-being are at risk and that these risks are multiplied by allowing this case file to remain public record where Plaintiff disclosed Defendant's sealed name change.
- 4. Further, the Court finds Plaintiff made numerous public references in this matter to a sealed paternity case in which he represented Defendant. Paternity cases are sealed, per NRS § 125.110(2), and Plaintiff used confidential information provided to him by his former client to advance this lawsuit.
- 5. The standards for sealing this case in its entirety are met due to Defendant's physical and emotional danger, his right to be free from threats of violence, psychological abuse, and intimidation, and Plaintiff's disclosure of sealed and confidential information in a frivolous suit.
- 6. Therefore, Defendant has provided this Court with compelling reasons against public disclosure of the contents of the record and sealing the case furthers the goals of the California Safe at Home program via California Civil Procedure Code § 367.3 et seq.

Accordingly,

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Fax (702) 383-070]

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IT IS ORDERED, Defendant's Motion to Seal is GRANTED. The Clerk shall preserve the 1 2 case file under seal per SRCR 3(7) and subject to SRCR 3(5)(c), with the exception that the 3 caption shall identify the defendant by the pseudonym 'JOHN DOE'. 4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, Plaintiff shall be prohibited from disclosing or 5 disseminating any record or pleading from this matter. 6 DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2021. 7 Dated this 18th day of June, 2021 8 9 Respectfully Submitted by: 10 FF8 73F 6F02 2966 OLSON CANNON GORMLEY & STOBERSKI 11 Jessica K. Peterson District Court Judge /s/ Brandon P. Smith, Esq. 12 JAMES R. OLSON, ESQ. 13 Nevada Bar No. 000116 14 STEPHANIE A. BARKER, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 3176 15 BRANDON P. SMITH, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 010443 16 9950 West Cheyenne Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89129 17 Attorney for Defendant 18

Case 2:06-cv-04823-JDW Document 16 Filed 08/09/21 Page 16 of 43

#### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO CENTRAL

#### MINUTE ORDER

DATE: 06/24/2021

TIME: 10:01:00 AM

DEPT: C-70

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: Ronald F. Frazier

CLERK: Anthony Shirley

REPORTER/ERM: Not Reported BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT:

CASE NO: 37-2017-00036344-CU-NP-CTL CASE INIT.DATE: 09/27/2017

CASE TITLE: McMillan vs Chaker [IMAGED]

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Non-PI/PD/WD tort - Other

#### **APPEARANCES**

The Court, having taken the above-entitled matter under submission on 06/23/2021 and having fully considered the arguments of all parties, both written and oral, as well as the evidence presented, now rules as follows:

Defendant John Doe's Motion to Place Documents Under Seal Under Code of Civil Procedure Section 367.3 is GRANTED. (ROA 329.)

"Unless confidentiality is required by law, court records are presumed to be open." (Cal. R. Court, rule 2.550(c).) Statutory authority expressly authorizes a Safer at Home participant to keep his or her name and identifying information confidential in litigation. (Code Civ. Proc. § 367.3(b)(1).)

Here, Defendant has submitted evidence that he is an active participant of the Safer at Home program. (Erigero Decl. ¶ 2, Exh. A.) Accordingly, the court finds there is an overriding interest that overcomes the right of public access to the records at issue in this motion such support sealing the proposed portions of those records. Further, the court finds there is a substantial probability that the overriding interest will be prejudiced if the record is not sealed. The proposed order to seal is narrowly tailored, and a less restrictive means to achieve the overriding interest does not exist.

"The responsibility to exclude or redact identifying characteristics of the protected person from documents filed with the court rests solely with the parties and their attorneys" and the statute "does not require the court to review pleadings or other papers for compliance." (Code Civ. Proc. § 367.3(b)(3).)

Defendant has lodged redacted versions of the records to be sealed, as identified in Attachment 4 of the motion. The court clerk is directed to place the redacted versions in the public court file in place of the original documents that Defendant has asked the court to seal.

Further, the court finds the register of actions must be revised to replace Defendant's true name with the pseudonym John Doe and to indicate that specified materials have been placed under seal.

Going forward, the parties and their agents and attorneys are required to use the pseudonym "in all

Ex. B

DATE: 06/24/2021

DEPT: C-70

MINUTE ORDER

Page 1 Calendar No. CASE TITLE: McMillan vs Chaker [IMAGED]

CASE NO: 37-2017-00036344-CU-NP-CTL

pleadings, discovery requests or discovery motion documents, and other documents filed or served in the action, and at hearings, trial, and other court proceedings that are open to the public," and are subject to sanctions for any intentional violation. (Code Civ. Proc. § 367.3(b)(2)(A).)

Defendant's requests for judicial notice are denied on the grounds the court did not find the records relevant to its determination of this motion.

Defendant filed a proposed order with its moving papers; however, the appropriate proposed order is a judicial council form. Accordingly, **Defendant's counsel is to prepare a proposed order on Judicial Council form SH-025 and submit it directly to Department 65 within five (5) days**.

Defendant's Motion to Seal Portions of Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint is also GRANTED. (ROA 299.)

Defendant seeks to seal exactly the same portion of the First Amended Complaint as was previously ordered sealed by the court with regard to the initial Complaint. Once a record is sealed it cannot be unsealed except by order of the court. (Cal. R. Court, rule 2.551(h)(1).)

Plaintiffs ought to have filed a redacted copy of their First Amended Complaint consistent with the court's existing sealing order of June 29, 2018 and lodged an unredacted copy with the court.

Page 29, lines 13 through 15 of the First Amended Complaint are ordered sealed consistent with the court's June 29, 2018 order. The court has already concluded these allegations involve an overriding interest (privacy rights/confidentiality of paternity records) that overcomes the right of public access to this portion of the record, that this overriding interest supports sealing of the record, that there exists a substantial probability that the overriding interest will be prejudiced if these records are not sealed, that the proposed sealing has been narrowly tailored, and that no less restrictive means exist to achieve the overriding interest.

Plaintiffs' request for judicial notice is granted.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Judge Ronald F. Frazier

Alexa 2. Zani

DATE: 06/24/2021

DEPT: C-70

supplemental motion to seal sets forth additional facts in support of his request for the Court to either seal the entire case or, in the alternative, redact his personal information from the record. (Doc. No. 16 at 2.)

After reviewing Plaintiff's filings, Court denies Plaintiff's supplemental request to seal the entire record. To seal a judicial record, a movant must present "compelling reasons" that outweigh the public's interest in access to the record. Oliner v. Kontrabecki, 745 F.3d 1024, 1025-26 (9th Cir. 2014). In addition, "[a]ny order sealing documents should be 'narrowly tailored'" to serve those compelling reasons. Ervine v. Warden, 214 F. Supp. 3d 917, 919 (E.D. Cal. 2016) (citing Press-Enterprise Co. v. Superior Court, 464 U.S. 501, 513 (1984)); see also Perez-Guerrero v. U.S. Atty. Gen., 717 F.3d 1224, 1235 (11th Cir. 2013) ("[T]he decision to seal the entire record of the case . . . must be 'necessitated by a compelling governmental interest [] and [be] narrowly tailored to that interest." (second and third brackets in original) (citation omitted)). Here, sealing the entire record would be overbroad and undermine the "strong presumption" favoring the public's interest in this case, a class action against a debt collection service. See Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1096 (9th Cir. 2016); Oliner, 745 F.3d at 1025-26.

That being said, sufficient cause supports Plaintiff's supplemental request to redact his name from the docket and allow him to proceed under the pseudonym "John Doe." The Ninth Circuit allows parties to proceed anonymously when the party's "need for anonymity" to avoid physical injury outweighs the "prejudice to the opposing party and the public's interest in knowing the party's identity." <u>Does I thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.</u>, 214 F.3d 1058, 1067-68 (9th Cir. 2000). That is the case here. (<u>See Doc. No. 16</u>, Exs. A-C.) Additionally, redacting Plaintiff's name from the record would not prejudice any party because Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed the action over fifteen years ago. (Doc. No. 6.) Further, the public's interest in this case primarily centers around the underlying nature of the action, a class action against a debt collection service, not Plaintiff's identity. As a result, the Court grants Plaintiff's supplemental request to redact

### Case 2:06-cv-04823-JDW Document 16 Filed 08/09/21 Page 20 of 43 Case 3:06-cv-00599-H-AJB Document 17 Filed 06/29/21 PageID.231 Page 3 of 3

his name from the record.

For the foregoing reasons, the Court grants Plaintiff's petition to re-open the case. The Court then grants in part and denies in part Plaintiff's supplemental motion to seal. Consistent with this Order, the Court directs the Clerk to replace Plaintiff's name with "John Doe" on the docket and in all publicly and electronically available documents so as to conceal his true name. Thereafter, the Court directs the Clerk to re-close the case.

#### IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: June 28, 2021

MARILYN II. HUFF, District Judge UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

United States District Court Southern District of Texas

#### **ENTERED**

June 29, 2021 Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

DARREN D. CHAKER,

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Appellant,

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:15-CV-2897

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#### ORDER

Pending before the Court are three (3) Motions to Seal this File (Instrument Nos. 22, 24, and 25), and one Motion to Reopen the case. (Instrument No. 23). The Motion to Reopen is DENIED. The Motions to Seal the File are GRANTED.

The Clerk is advised that no additional pleadings should be accepted in this case.

The Clerk shall enter this Order and provide a copy to all parties.

SIGNED on this the day of June, 2021.

VANESSA D. GILMORE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Ex. E

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Motion to Seal Records (Doc. 22) is GRANTED. The Clerk of Court shall seal this case in its entirety.

Dated this 30th day of June, 2021.

Honorable Roslyn O. Silver Senior United States District Judge

cc: all parties

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MIME-Version:1.0 From:azddb\_responses@azd.uscourts.gov To:azddb\_nefs@localhost.localdomain Bcc: Message-Id:<22142562@azd.uscourts.gov>Subject:Activity in Case 12-2452 Sealed v. Sealed (Redacted Notice) Content-Type: text/html

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#### **U.S. District Court**

#### DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

#### **Notice of Electronic Filing**

The following transaction was entered on 7/1/2021 at 7:05 AM MST and filed on 7/1/2021

Case Name:

CitiBank NA v. Hunter

Case Number:

2:12-cv-02452-ROS \*SEALED\*

Filer:

WARNING: CASE CLOSED on 07/11/2013

Document Number: 24

#### Docket Text:

SEALED ORDER granting [21] Sealed Motion to Seal. FURTHER ORDERED granting [23] Sealed Motion to Seal Records. The Clerk of Court shall seal this case in its entirety. Signed by Senior Judge Roslyn O Silver on 6/30/21. (cc: All Parties) (MAP)

2:12-cv-02452-ROS \*SEALED\* No electronic public notice will be sent because the case/entry is sealed.

The following document(s) are associated with this transaction:

Document description:Main Document
Original filename:n/a
Electronic document Stamp:
[STAMP deecfStamp\_ID=1096393563 [Date=7/1/2021] [FileNumber=22142561-0] [604354505d370f5b3b3bc05ca405a323830a47c55644589cba013453f9b5ee26e59 ae8bebf1039b482a5b07db9a50d7795a60b797d6b9bd33c8699837b8912c1]]

# SEALED DOCUMENT

# NOTAPUBLIC RECORD

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

\* \* \*

JOHN DOE,1

Case No. 2:06-cv-00244-JCM-DJA

Plaintiff,

**ORDER** 

V.

COLLECTCO, INC., dba COLLECTION COMPANY OF AMERICA, et al.,

Defendant.

Before the Court is Plaintiff John Doe's motion to seal (ECF No. 12), motion to reopen case (ECF No. 15), motion to seal attaching a supplement (ECF No. 16), and two motions to seal attaching motions for judicial notice (ECF Nos. 17 and 19). Because the Court finds that Plaintiff has not sufficiently shown that the Court should seal the entire record, but that Plaintiff has shown good cause to redact his address and email address and replace his name with "John Doe," the Court grants his motions to seal (ECF Nos. 12, 15, and 16) in part and denies his motion to seal attaching his motions for judicial notice (ECF Nos. 17 and 19) as moot. The Court finds these matters properly resolved without a hearing. LR 78-1.

#### I. Background.

Through his motion to seal and reopen (ECF Nos. 12 and 15), Plaintiff seeks to reopen the case to seal the record and replace his name with "John Doe." Plaintiff explains that he is protected under California Code of Civil Procedure § 367.3 and California Government Code § 6205 (the "Safe at Home Program") which allows crime victims to keep their addresses confidential. Plaintiff supplemented his motion (ECF No. 16) a few months later and filed motions for judicial notice of other court decisions sealing or redacting his information (ECF No. 17 and 19).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Court replaces Plaintiff's name in the caption with John Doe.

#### II. Standard.

Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 10(a), the title of every complaint must "include the names of all the parties," and a plaintiff's use of a fictitious name may "run[] afoul of the public's common law right of access to judicial proceedings." *Does I through XIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.*, 214 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir. 2000). "The normal presumption in litigation is that parties must use their real names." *Doe v. Kamehameha Sch./Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate*, 596 F.3d 1036, 1042 (9th Cir. 2010). Nevertheless, the Ninth Circuit permits parties to proceed anonymously "in special circumstances when the party's need for anonymity outweighs prejudice to the opposing party and the public's interest in knowing the party's identity. *Does I through XII*, 214 F.3d at 1068; *see United States v. Doe*, 488 F.3d 1154, 1155 n.1 (9th Cir. 2007) ("We are cognizant 'that the identity of the parties in any action, civil or criminal, should not be concealed except in an unusual case, where there is a need for the cloak of anonymity"). The decision of whether to allow a party to remain anonymous is within this Court's discretion. *See Kamehameha Sch.*, 596 F.3d at 1042.

#### III. Discussion.

#### A. Ninth Circuit authority applies to this case.

Although Plaintiff asks this Court to apply California law, the case he cites does not support his position. Plaintiff uses *Maldonado v. Sec'y of Cal. Dept. of Corrs. and Rehab*, for the proposition that this court should apply California law to seal his case. However, *Maldonado* is distinguishable because it involved an ongoing case with mixed questions of state and federal law. *See Maldonado v. Sec'y of Cal. Dept. of Corrs. and Rehab.*, No. 2:06-cv-0269-MCE/GGH, 2007 WL 4249811, at \*5-6 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 30, 207). Here, however, Plaintiff's case has been closed for fifteen years. Even when it was active, it involved only questions of federal and Nevada law, not California law. California law does not apply here, rather, this Court applies Ninth Circuit rules governing the use of fictitious names and sealing cases.

#### B. The Court denies Plaintiff's motion to seal the entire case.

To the extent that Plaintiff asks the Court to seal the entire case, the Court declines. Courts ask two questions to determine whether a qualified First Amendment right of public access applies

#### Case 2:06-cv-04823-JDW Document 16 Filed 08/09/21 Page 29 of 43 Case 2:06-cv-00244-JCM-DJA Document 20 Filed 07/27/21 Page 3 of 17

to a particular proceeding or document: (1) whether the place and process have historically been open to the press and general public; and (2) whether public access plays a significant positive role in the functioning of the particular process in question. *United States v. Doe*, 870 F.3d 991, 997 (9th Cir. 2017). Even when this test is satisfied, however, the public's First Amendment right of access establishes only a strong presumption of openness, and "the public still can be denied access if closure 'is necessitated by a compelling government interest, and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest." *Id.* (citing *Times Mirror Co. v. United States*, 873 F.2d 1210, 1211 n.1 (9th Cir. 1989)).

United States v. Doe stands for the proposition that sealing docket entries requires a connection between the threat and the docket entries. Doe, 870 F.3d at 998-1001. There, a criminal defendant moved to seal docket entries that showed that he had provided the government information about an international drug cartel in exchange for a lowered sentence. Doe, 870 F.3d at 994. Although the defendant had not received specific threats to him or his family, the Ninth Circuit found that sealing was necessary because: (1) the risks to Doe and his family were extreme due to the amount of information Doe had provided, the wealth of the international cartel with which he dealt, and the fact that inmates are routinely required to produce dockets and case documents to prove they didn't cooperate; (2) the government had an interest in preserving its ongoing investigation; and (3) there were no adequate alternatives to closure because redacted docket entries would immediately look different than those in non-cooperators cases, readily signaling Doe's cooperation. See id. at 998-1001

Here, Plaintiff does not overcome the First Amendment right of public access to the case docket. Under the Ninth Circuit test: (1) court's dockets have historically been open to the press and general public; and (2) public access plays a positive role in the function of preserving case records. Plaintiff does not overcome this right because the remedy of sealing the entire docket is not narrowly tailored to achieving the goal of protecting information covered by the Safe at Home Program.

Plaintiff has also not sufficiently connected the threats he has received to the docket to seal the entire record. Even more so than the criminal defendant in *Doe*, who sought only to seal certain

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entries, here Plaintiff asks the entire case to be sealed. However, less than the criminal defendant in Doe—who had verified involvement with an international drug cartel—Plaintiff speculates that a criminal enterprise is the source of threats against him. The docket also contains very few references to Plaintiff's address or email. On balance, however, Plaintiff has provided evidence of a serious threat. Under the *Doe* factors: (1) Plaintiff has alleged that the risks are extreme but has not directly connected them with the docket like the defendant in Doe who could show that the docket would form the basis for others to threaten him and his family; (2) the California government has shown an interest in protecting its citizens through the Safe at Home Program; and (3) there are adequate alternatives to sealing the entire record. Although the second factor weighs in Plaintiff's favor, the first and second weigh in favor of a narrower remedy. The Court thus denies Plaintiff's motion insofar as it asks for his entire case to be sealed.

#### *C*. The Court grants Plaintiff's motion to redact his personal information.

Plaintiff has shown sufficient reasons to redact his personal information from the record. While the Safe at Home Program is not able to delete information that already exists in public records, it does provide that "participants should request that confidential information on public records be replaced by their Safe at home designated mailing address." See Frequently Asked https://www.sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-Questions, CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE, home/frequently-asked-questions1. (last visited Jul. 20, 2021). In Doe v. Law Offices of Winn and Sims et al.—another case which Plaintiff requested to seal—the Southern District of California found that, although Plaintiff had not provided sufficient reasons to seal his entire record, his participation in the California Safe at Home Program was reason to remove his address from the record and replace his name with "John Doe." See Doe v. Law Offices of Winn and Sims et al., No. 3:06-cv-00599-H-AJB, 2021 WL 2529617, at \*1-2 (S.D. Cal. June 21, 2021); see Doe v. Law Offices of Winn and Sims et al., No. 3:06-cv-00599-H-AJB, (ECF No. 17) (S. D. Cal June 29, 2021). The court declined Plaintiff's requests to seal the entire case but directed the Clerk of Court to replace his address on the docket with his Safe at Home address, replace certain documents with redacted versions, and to replace Plaintiff's name with "John Doe." See id.

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#### Case 2:06-cv-04823-JDW Document 16 Filed 08/09/21 Page 31 of 43 Case 2:06-cv-00244-JCM-DJA Document 20 Filed 07/27/21 Page 5 of 17

Here, the Court finds good reason to redact Plaintiff's address and email and replace his name with "John Doe." Plaintiff has provided evidence of his participation in the Safe at Home Program, of a threat, and of his connection with a criminal event. And through his motions, Plaintiff seeks to follow the recommendations of the Safe at Home Program, asking—in the alternative to sealing—for the Court to replace his name with "John Doe" and redact his addresses. The Court finds the Southern District of California's approach to Plaintiffs' similar requests persuasive, although it does not find the need to take judicial notice of the cases Plaintiff submitted in his motions to seal (ECF No. 17 and 19). While Plaintiff has not provided sufficient reasons to seal his entire record, he has provided enough for the Court to replace his address on the docket with his Safe at Home address, to redact his address and email, and to replace his name with "John Doe."

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion to seal (ECF No. 12) as it relates to ECF Nos. 12-1, 16, 17, and 19 is granted. These items are to remain sealed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Plaintiff's motions to seal (ECF Nos. 12 and 16) are granted in part.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion to seal, appending his notice for judicial notice (ECF Nos. 17, 17-1, and 19) are denied as moot.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court is kindly directed to replace Plaintiff's address on the docket with his Safe at Home address—P.O. Box 1679, Sacramento CA 95812<sup>2</sup>—and to replace ECF Nos. 7, 15, and 18 with redacted versions of those documents attached to this Order as Exhibits A, B, and C, respectively. The Clerk of Court is also directed to replace Plaintiff's name with "John Doe" on the docket and in all publicly and electronically available documents to conceal his true name. Thereafter the Court directs the Clerk to re-close the case.

DATED: July 27, 2021

DANIEL J. ALBREGTS UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

# CALIFORNIA COURTS THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

Supreme Court

Change court

#### **Case Summary**

Supreme Court

S100508

Case:

Court of Appeal

No Data Found

Case(s):

Case(s).
Case Caption:

CHAKER (DARREN D.) ON H.C.

Case Category:

Confidential

Start Date:

09/10/2001

Case Status:

case closed

issues:

none

Disposition Date:

02/27/2002

Case Citation:

none

Cross Referenced Cases:

No Cross Referenced Cases Found

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# CALIFORNIA COURTS THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

Supreme Court

Change court

#### **Case Summary**

Supreme Court

S093945

Case:

Court of Appeal

No Data Found

Case(s):

Case Caption:

CHAKER (DARREN D.) ON H.C.

Case Category:

Confidential

Start Date:

12/26/2000

Case Status:

case closed

Issues:

none

Disposition Date:

03/28/2001

Case Citation:

none

Cross Referenced Cases:

No Cross Referenced Cases Found

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#### CALIFORNIA COURTS THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

Supreme Court

Change court

#### **Case Summary**

Supreme Court

S093943

Case:

Court of Appeal

No Data Found

Case(s):

Case Caption:

CHAKER (DARREN D.) ON H.C.

Case Category:

Confidential

Start Date:

Issues:

12/26/2000

Case Status:

case closed

none

Disposition Date:

03/28/2001

Case Citation:

none

Cross Referenced Cases:

No Cross Referenced Cases Found

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Supreme Court

Change court

#### **Case Summary**

Supreme Court

S088929

Case:

Court of Appeal

No Data Found

Case(s):

Case Caption:

CHAKER ON H.C.

Case Category:

Confidential

Start Date:

06/02/2000

Case Status:

case closed

Issues:

none

Disposition Date:

09/27/2000

Case Citation:

none

Cross Referenced Cases:

No Cross Referenced Cases Found

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# CALIFORNIA COURTS THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

Supreme Court

Change court

#### **Case Summary**

Supreme Court

S079640

Case:

Court of Appeal

No Data Found

Case(s):

Case Caption:

CHAKER, DARREN D.

Case Category:

Confidential

Start Date:

06/11/1999

Case Status:

case closed

Issues:

none

Disposition Date:

09/29/1999

Case Citation:

none

Cross Referenced Cases:

No Cross Referenced Cases Found

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Ex. J

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Case No. 2009-70010

DARREN CHAKER,

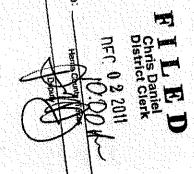
Petitioner

VS.

NICOLE MATEO,

Respondent.

IN THE 247<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS



#### ORDER SEALING COURT RECORDS

The Honorable Bonnie Hellums, Presiding District Court Judge.

Pending before the Court is Darren Chaker's Motion to Seal Record ("Motion"). The

Court called the Motion for hearing on November 11, 2011. Petitioner Darren Chaker

appeared through counsel, Yaron Lutfak. Respondent Nicole Mateo did not appear or file
a response to the Motion.

After considering the pleadings and affidavit of the Petitioner, the evidence and arguments of counsel, the Court finds that the Motion has merit and that the disclosure of records, discovery and related information will result in irreparable injury to Petitioner. The court also finds specific, serious and substantial interests clearly outweigh the presumption of openness provided by <u>Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 76a(1)</u> and any probable adverse effect that sealing will have upon public's health or safety.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the Motion is GRANTED.

IT IS ORDERED that the following court records are sealed:

All records bearing Cause Number 2009-70010 and styled "Chaker v. Mateo" are sealed in physical and electronic form, except those documents that are required by law to be recorded in the minutes of the Court. The records shall not be opened or released except on appropriate court order unless used in connection with the instant case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioner, Darren Chaker, and Respondent, Nicole Mateo, shall not release, distribute, or provide any sealed record, including any

discovery, to a third party unless to the his or her attorney, the Texas Attorney General or other entity to enforce any order of the Court or in connection with any future or pending litigation between the parties. SIGNED this day\_\_\_\_ of November, 2011 DEC 0 2 2011 Hon. Bonnie C. Hellums Add an 



#### STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS

i, Chris Daniel, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this.

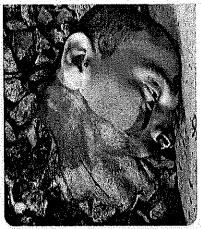
CHRIS DANIEL DISTRICT CLERK
HARRIS COUNTY, (TEXAS)

Deputy

#### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO CENTRAL DIVISION 220 WEST BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

224 Trust Dictrib Will, Office	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Thu PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, Plaintiff,	Court #: \$CD223206 D.A. Case #: ACP303
VS.	Park 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
CHIVATCHEV, NIKOLA, Defendant.	HEARING DATE, TIME & DEPARTMENT Felony Jury Trial APRIL 7, 2010 at 9:00 AM Department: 11
To Witness:	SUBPOENA
DARREN CHAKER	Criminal P.C. 1326-1332
311 N. Robertson Blvd #123 Beverly Hills, CA 90211	G.C. Sec 7460 et seq.
Bevery lines, CA 90211	
YOU ARE COMMANDED to appear in Department 11 of the Centre Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, on	al Division of the San Diego Superior Court, 220 West
APRIL 7, 2010 at	9:00 AM
as a witness in the criminal action prosecuted by the People of the Sta	ate of California against the above named defendant(s).
Disobedience of this subpoena may be punishe	
BY ORDER OF THE COURT: For good cause shown, it is hereby or	rdered that the above named witness appear in court as
commanded by this subpoena.	Michael M. Roddy, Clerk of the Superior Court
	N 1 1
3-01-10	I Leutte
3-01-16 Date	Deputy Clerk
Pursuant to Penal Code section 1331.5, in lieu of such appearance at at whose request the subpoena was issued to appear at another time o to appear pursuant to such agreement may be punished as contempt a your arrest.	r upon such notice as may be agreed upon. Any failure
CERTIFICATE OF S	ERVICE
lacksquare On the date shown below I served the within subpoena on the above name	ta 💆 💮 💮 💮 💮 💮 💮 💮 💮
On the date shown below I served the within subpoena on the above name	
After due search and diligent inquiry I have been unable to locate the about	ove named person.
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and t	hat this declaration is executed
on (Date) at (Place)	, California.
	(Signature of Server)
SPECIAL INSTRUC	
Please contact Paralegal Janelle Lezette at (619) 531-3599 t	
Thank you.	
Deputy District Attorney assigned is Mich	hael McCann (619) 531-3644

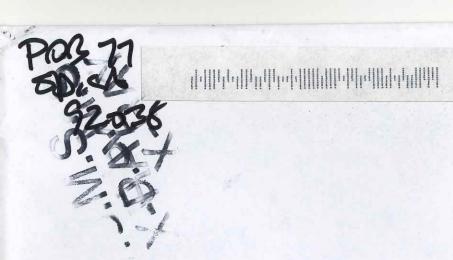
(469) 907-5672





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US DISTRICT COURT 601 MARKET ST. Philadelphia IPA 19106